

## John Branch to Andrew Jackson, May 23, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN BRANCH TO JACKSON.

Washington, May 23, 1828.

*My Dear Sir,* In a few days Congress will adjourn after a protracted Session of near six months. You may well imagine that many of us who have families are all anxiety to be off. I cannot however depart without saying to you that the prospects are as cheering nay more so than when we first assembled. The new tariff has however depressed the spirits of our southern friends no little, and will I fear produce a sensation in that portion of our union, which if followd up by new exactions on the part of the Governm't must terminate in results deeply to be deplored by every friend to the harmony and union of these States. For my own part it shall be my purpose rather to allay than to foment them.

Both parties have striven to operate on the public mind by legislative enactments. Our friends I am frank to say have fought their opponents with their own weapons and are therefore not exempt from their full share of those undue influences. If the alternative was presented to me of either perpetuating this corrupt dynasty or suffering my votes in Congress to be influenced by considerations connected with the pending Presidential election I certainly could not hesitate which of the two to choose. Of two evils I could choose the least; for I verily believe that if by any means Adams and Clay succeed, that the subversion of the liberties of this people would inevitably ensue. Every thing therefore dear to freemen is at stake.

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But Sir I am not one of those who think that the *politicians* in Congress or out of Congress can vary the result. If elected which I trust in God you will be You will owe your election to the people, Yes Sir to the unbiased, unbought suffrages of the independent, grateful yeomenry of this Country. You will come into the Executive chair untrammelled, free to pursue the dictates of your own judgment. Many of the *would* be leaders are but humble followers of the people and while they profess to lead, are themselves led. It is really amusing to look on at the game that is playing by those in power, every stratagem every trick and device is resorted to to perpetuate their ill gotten power, when detected in one they fly to another, and as the game is drawing to a close they often present a ludicrous appearance. . . . .